

Amendment to the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 5, and 9 as set forth below. The changes in the amended claims are shown by strikethrough for deleted matter and by underlining for added matter.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for message processing in a distributed data processing system having a plurality of nodes, said method comprising the steps of:

 sending a plurality of messages from a sending process running one of the nodes in the system to a number of other nodes in the system, said number of nodes being the same as the number of said plurality of messages;

after sending said messages to all of said other nodes, setting the status of said sending process to idle; and

 changing the status of said sending process to active upon receipt of responses to said messages from all of said other nodes or upon receipt of notification that at least one response will not arrive.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further including the step of processing, by said sending process, said responses to said messages.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which, prior to sending said message, said sending process selects a subset of nodes within said data processing system for receipt of said message.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which said messages sent to said plurality of nodes are all the same.

5. (Currently Amended) A data processing system comprising:

 a plurality of nodes connected by a network for sending messages between said nodes;

 a plurality of message processing programs each being stored in one of said nodes;

a message sending processing interface program, residing on said one node and being capable of (1) sending a plurality of messages in response to requests from said sending process program, said messages being directed to an equal plurality of nodes selected to receive said messages (2) setting the status of said sending process to inactive after sending said messages to all of said plurality of nodes, and (3) changing the status of said sending process to active upon receipt of responses to said messages from all of said selected nodes or upon receipt of notification that at least one response will not arrive.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5 in which said interface also includes program code for responding to selection of a subset of destination nodes by said sending process program.

7. (Original) The system of claim 5 in which said sending process program is capable of processing said responses.

8. (Original) The system of claim 5 in which said messages sent to said plurality of nodes are all the same.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a program:

to send a plurality of messages from a sending process running one of the nodes in ~~the~~ a system to a number of other nodes in the system, said number of nodes being the same as the number of said plurality of messages;

to set the status of said sending process to idle after said messages have been sent to all of said other nodes; and

to change the status of said sending process to active upon receipt of responses to said messages from all of said other nodes or upon receipt of notification that at least one response will not arrive.